

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 15, 29 and 36 are amended to recite that the printing data is data to be printed in accordance with a print request. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, at paragraph [0057] of the specification as filed. Dependent claims 6 and 20 are amended for clarity. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiners Riley and Haskins during the March 19, 2008 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. The Claims Are Patentable Over The Applied References

The Office Action (1) rejects claims 1-10, 15-24, 29-34 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,678,064 to Bruce; and (2) rejects claims 11-14, 25-28 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bruce in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,288,790 to Yellepeddy. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 15, 29 and 36 are amended to recited that the printing data is "data to be printed in accordance with a print request" to more clearly define that the printing data is not a print request.

Regarding independent claims 1, 15, 29 and 36, Bruce fails to disclose or suggest "a controller that: (1) enables editing of the printing data previously stored in the memory of the image forming device" (claim 1); "editing means for enabling editing of the printing data previously stored in the storage means of the image forming device" (claim 15); "allowing editing of the printing data previously stored in the image forming device" (claim 29); and "an editing part that sets the printing data stored in the memory to an editing-allowable state according to a request from the host device" (claim 36).

Bruce discloses a printer document viewer. The system of Bruce includes a printing device 130 (Fig. 1) having a touch screen 320 (Fig. 3; col. 9, lines 25-26) that, for example, provides a document list 350 of the pending print requests (col. 9, lines 34-37).

The Office Action cites to touch screen 320 (Fig. 3) having an interactive menu that a user can use to interact with the printing device 130 as disclosing the features quoted above. However, as quoted by the Office Action, Bruce states "printing device 130 includes a display with a touch screen 320 for providing a user with an interactive menu to view, control, and manipulate print requests stored in the memory queue, at step 415" (col. 9, lines 25-28).

In relation to Fig. 3, Bruce discloses that GUI buttons 340-353 as well as scroll bar 328 manipulate print requests in document list 350 (col. 9, line 25 to col. 10, line 38). The Examiners argued during the interview that, at Fig. 4, step 435, the user can view a file associated with a print request. However, as explained at the personal interview, while Bruce discloses that a user can view the content of a file associated with a print request, and can view different sections of the file, Bruce does not disclose or suggest that a user can edit the contents of the file, i.e., the print data. Bruce merely indicates that the order in which documents are to be printed can be manipulated and that requests to print specific documents can be deleted, etc.

In contrast, the independent claims recite that it is the "printing data previously stored in the memory of the image forming device" (as recited in claim 1) that is edited. By this Amendment, the independent claims are amended to even more clearly recite that the printing data, is what is edited. Because one of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand that a print request is not printing data and further is not printing data that provides image data that is used to produce printed output, one skilled in the art would understand that Bruce fails to disclose all features of the independent claims. Bruce fails to disclose an image forming device having the claimed features or performing the claimed steps.

Further, while Bruce discloses that a user can manipulate print requests, even ignoring the distinction between print requests and print data in order to apply this disclosure to the claimed language, Bruce fails to disclose that the user can edit a print request. As explained at the personal interview, "manipulate" does not correspond to "edit". The American Heritage College Dictionary, fourth edition, defines "manipulate" as "To arrange, operate, or control by the hands or by mechanical means". The term "edit" is defined as "To prepare for publication or presentation, as by correcting, revising, or adapting", which agrees with the use of the term "edit" in Applicants' specification. Please see Exhibit A. Because "manipulate" does not encompass the term "edit" as used in the claims, one of ordinary skill would not have understood Bruce's use of the term "manipulate" to mean editing.

Yellepeddy, applied in relation to claims 11-14, 25-28 and 35, does not cure the deficiencies of Bruce. Yellepeddy discloses a system which provides print support when the connection to a remote printer is lost. Yellepeddy discloses a data processing system 102 such as a desktop or mobile computing device (Fig. 1; col. 2, lines 57-62) connected to a print server/printer 108 over a network 106 (Fig. 1). When the connection to the remote print server/printer 108 is lost or the user cannot access the print server/printer 108, a mobile print manager 202 creates a transient print queue 206 that stores the desired print requests (col. 4, lines 10-18). When access to the print server/printer 108 is achieved, the transient print queue can be replayed and the print requests submitted to the print server/printer 108 (col. 4, lines 18-29).

Yellepeddy fails to cure the deficiencies of Bruce because, while Yellepeddy discloses the ability to edit (ASCII only) versions of a print job (col. 7, lines 8-11), this ability exists only on the data processing system 102, not on the image forming device (print server/printer 108) as claimed.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Exhibit A

Date: March 26, 2008

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The American Heritage college dictionary.-- 4th ed.
p.cm.

Based on the fourth ed. of the American Heritage dictionary.

ISBN 0-618-09848-8 (thumb edge) --

ISBN 0-618-19604-8 (deluxe binding)

1. English language--Dictionaries. 2. Americanisms. I. Houghton Mifflin Company. II. American Heritage dictionary.

PE1628 .A6227 2002
423--dc21

2001039826

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